

Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustee  
Committee of the Whole  
Meeting Minutes

**DRAFT**

Present:

PRESIDENT PALMER

TRUSTEE IRWIN

TRUSTEE HAAS

TRUSTEE KRESSIN

TRUSTEE DOMASZEK

TRUSTEE CORNELL

HECTOR DE LA MORA, VILLAGE ATTORNEY

MONICA HUGHES, FINANCE DIRECTOR

THOMAS HARRIGAN, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

President Palmer called the meeting to order at 8:08am

**Discussion And Possible Recommendation Regarding The 2021 Operating Budget**

President Palmer opened the meeting noting that the agenda included a discussion on the 2021 operating and capital budgets and the need to reduce the levy to bring it into compliance with state set limits. Trustee Haas, chairman of the Finance Committee, then summarized the current draft budget and the review by the finance committee during its recent workshops. The original budget needed the levy to be reduced by \$356,000 to meet the levy limit increase of \$121,000. Staff has made recommendations to reduce the capital levy required by \$199,000 which the committee was in agreement. The remaining \$156,000 has been discussed and a number of items have been identified that could be changed to meet the limit. Trustee Haas noted that the finance committee was looking for direction of the Trustees as a number of the items would reflect policy or past practice changes. A list of areas for consideration was included as was a staff recommendation to meet the levy using a number of the suggested options.

Trustee Haas introduced the first area which included reducing the sewer levy by \$120,000. With the reduction \$60,000 would be moved to the user fees, which would increase the residential fee by approximately \$20. The planned funds budgeted for future projects would be reduced by \$50,000 and the 2021 operating budget for repairs and maintenance would be reduced by \$10,000. The committee of the whole members discussed Elm Grove's historical practice of placing a large portion of the capital charge on the levy. It was noted that this is unusual for a utility and we are one of the only communities to handle the capital charge this way. It was noted that over past years the Village has moved a portion of the capital fee to the user fee. Members agreed that these recommendations were appropriate.

Staff has also included moving one more capital item out one year, the DPW storage building, and members agreed.

The recommendation also included a reduction in healthcare expense based on the Village preliminary renewal amount of 6%. The renewal now appears to be a 7.5% increase which would change the estimated savings from \$20,000 to \$12,500. Trustee Cornell suggested changing the allocation for the

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4<sup>th</sup> of July in 2021 and using the down payment made this year (as fireworks were cancelled due to COVID) to provide the 2021 fireworks display. Originally there was discussion of having fireworks at the Village's Winterfest event but members supported using the funds for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and not adding a new event and expense to the Winterfest. This reduction of \$7,000 combined with the healthcare change and the other suggestions could bring the levy into compliance.

**Trustee Hass and Cornell moved and seconded to recommend the changes above to the finance committee including the reduction in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July funding and healthcare. Motion carried 6-0.**

**Other Business**

The board has a committee of the whole meeting scheduled for Wednesday November 11<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Domaszek requested that an item be added to the agenda to discuss the petition submitted recently by residents. The board also requested that discussion of the operation of a TIF be added to the agenda to provide members a better understanding.

**Adjourn**

There was no further business.

**Trustee Irwin and Cornell moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:55am. Motion carried.**